

***Oxalis suksdorfii* Trel.**
western yellow oxalis
Oxalidaceae (Wood-Sorrel Family)

Status: State Threatened

Rank: G4S1

General Description: Rhizomatous, leafy-stemmed perennial; plant stems 1/8 to 1/2 in. (3 to 15 cm) long, spreading to erect, covered with fine hairs; leaves on long petioles that are 1 in. (2½ cm) long, leaves divided into 3 heart-shaped leaflets; 1 to 3 flowers with 5 petals and 5 sepals, petals showy and yellow, ½ to ¾ in. (12 to 20 mm) long; one peduncle longer than stem; stamens long, filaments hairy; several fruit capsules with watery sour juice.

Identification Tips: *Oxalis suksdorfii* is most closely related to *O. stricta*, *O. dillenii*, and *O. corniculata*. These species can be distinguished by their petal length and number of peduncles. The petals of *O. suksdorfii* are ½ to ¾ in. (12 to 20 mm) long, and it has 1 to 2 flowers. The petals of *O. stricta*, *O. dillenii*, and *O. corniculata* are 1/8 to ¼ in. (4 to 9 mm) long, and they have 1 to 7 flowers.

Phenology: The species begins flowering in April and continues through August.

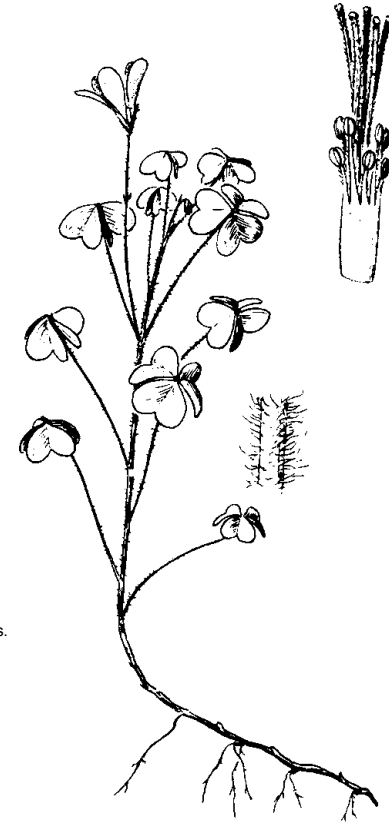
Range: *Oxalis suksdorfii* ranges from the western slopes of the Cascades to the Pacific Coast from southwestern Washington to northwestern California. The species is also found in British Columbia, Canada, and in the southern states of Tennessee and North Carolina. Known in Washington southwest of the Cascade Divide, populations are recorded from Clallam, Kitsap and Clark counties.

Habitat: *Oxalis suksdorfii* is usually found growing in meadows and moist woods and sometimes on dry open slopes. Additionally, one known population in Washington occurs on grassy sand dunes in Clallam County.

Ecology: There is very little information available regarding the ecology of this species. The diversity in habitat choices suggests that this species has the ability to adapt to environments with varying amounts of moisture and shade.

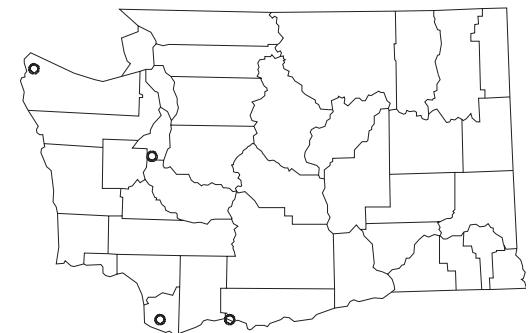
State Status Comments: The small number of known populations and the total number of recorded individuals contribute to this species' sensitive status in Washington.

Oxalis suksdorfii
western yellow oxalis



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Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish

Known distribution of
Oxalis suksdorfii
in Washington



- Current (1980+)
- Historic (older than 1980)

Oxalis suksdorfii
western yellow oxalis



Photo by Grace Patrick

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Inventory Needs: Additional inventory is needed, including relocation and monitoring of recorded sites.

Threats and Management Concerns: Housing developments and recreational impact.

References:

Hitchcock, C.L. and A. Cronquist. 1973. *Flora of the Pacific Northwest*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 730 pp.